

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17) 1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reps. Ugenti-Rita and Rivero Praise Increase in Personal Exemption

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard today saluted Representatives Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23) and Tony Rivero (R-21) for fighting to increase the personal exemption by \$100 over the next two years, at which point it will be indexed for inflation each year.

Arizona taxpayers can currently claim personal exemptions of \$2100 for individuals, \$4200 for married couples, or \$6300 for married couples with at least one dependent. Increasing the exemption positively affects every Arizona household.

"Reps. Ugenti-Rita and Rivero led a significant portion of our caucus who wanted to see the personal exemption increased," said Speaker Mesnard. "Thanks to their advocacy, Arizona taxpayers will get to keep more of what they earn."

"This increase in the personal exemption will benefit every taxpayer in Arizona," said Rep. Ugenti-Rita. "Taxpayers ought to be able to keep more of their hard-earned money, and I'm proud to have fought for this important provision in the budget."

"An increase in the personal exemption, as well as automatic inflationary increases in the future, is a big victory for taxpayers," said Rep. Rivero. "By increasing the amount of the Arizona individual income tax exemption, we help hard-working Arizonans. This increase in the exemption amount helps working-class Arizonans who earn wages and pay taxes. These are people who work hard but don't earn the kind of money that allows them to take advantage of the special tax breaks high-income folks get when they itemize their tax deductions. In short, by providing this change to our tax laws, we are giving a tax cut to hard-working families who most need the help."

<u>HB 2528</u>, sponsored by Speaker Mesnard and a top priority for Governor Ducey, unanimously passed the House earlier this session. In addition to phasing out unused tax exemptions, the bill will provide for inflationary increases to the personal exemption.

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